

issued in the Office Action.

The Office Action states that, if the claims revert back to "polyamide," which they do under the above amendment, then the claims continue to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. or Merval et al., as recited in the Office Action of December 21, 2000. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, with respect to Tanaka et al., the Office Action finds that the claims do not preclude the use of a surface treated steel surface that could include a zinc or zinc-alloy plated steel plate as disclosed by Tanaka et al. Through the above amendment, the now-claimed steel surface is defined as "bare," thereby precluding a plated structure as taught by Tanaka et al. and consequently believed to remove Tanaka et al. as anticipating the instantly claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

With respect to Merval et al, the Office Action finds that "...the [Merval et al.] product produced is the same whether the adhesive is an adhesive product when initially combined with the polyamide or after it is coated on the substrate." Applicants' understanding of Merval et al. is that Merval et al. disclose a thermoplastic powder composition for coating a metal and containing polyamide, polyetheresteramide, or a mixture thereof, along with an adhesive polycondensate of a sulfonamide with an aldehyde or dicarboxylic acid. The adhesive component of Merval et al. is not

a powder adhesive that is cured after being applied as a coating, but, instead, is an adhesive product when initially combined with the polyamide and/or polyetheresteramide. Conversely, as instantly claimed, the present powder adhesive is "cured-in-place" on the steel surface, and, is not believed, absent the citation of prior art that teaches such, to be a product which "is the same whether the adhesive is an adhesive product when initially combined with the polyamide or after it is coated on the substrate" as declared in the Office Action. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully believe that Merval et al. and Tanaka et al. do not anticipate or otherwise suggest the instantly claimed invention, and therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 14-1325.

In view of the above proposed amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 and discussion, it is Applicants' belief that entry of this

amendment will place the application in condition for allowance,
and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/4/01

By: *Bruce B. Brunda*

Bruce B. Brunda
Registration No. 28,497
STETINA BRUNDA GARRED & BRUCKER
75 Enterprise, Suite 250
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
(949) 855-1246



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

11. An acid impervious metal substrate comprising a bare steel surface having disposed thereon an acid impervious coating comprising a [distinct polyimide] polyamide particulate [component] and a [distinct cured] cured-in-place powder adhesive [component].

13. An acid impervious metal substrate as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the [polyimide] polyamide particulate is acid impervious up to about 700°F.

15. An acid impervious steel curing fixture comprising a bare steel surface having disposed thereon an acid impervious coating comprising a [distinct polyimide] polyamide particulate [component] and a [distinct cured] cured-in-place powder adhesive [component], said [polyimide] polyamide particulate being acid impervious up to about 700°F., and said adhesive being heat curable at a temperature below about 650°F.

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